



Governor's Workforce Board Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee

**November 3, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present: John Gregory Chair, Mario Bueno, Channavy Chhay, Mike Grey, Scott Jensen, George Nee, Janet Raymond
Committee Members Absent: Suzy Alba
GWB Staff Present: Heather Hudson, Amelia Roberts, Dan Brown,
DLT Staff Present: Sean Fontes, Diane Gagne, Nancy Olson, Robert Kalaskowski, Lisa D'Agostino, Scott Greco,
Other Guests Present: Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Philip Less, RIDE; Linda Katz, EPI
Location: Department of Labor and Training, Conference Room 73-2

Call to Order

Chair Gregory called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

Chair Gregory asked for a review of the October 4, 2016 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting minutes. Chair Gregory also asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Scott Jensen. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

NSFY for Youth:

Chair Gregory asked Heather Hudson, GWB Executive Director to provide an update. Heather referred everyone to The Path to Career Readiness Rhode Island New Skills for Youth Phase II Presentation handout. Heather highlighted some keys points regarding NFSY.

- In attendance at the NSFY conference held in Washington DC was Governor Raimondo, Ken Wagner Commissioner of Education, Steve Osborn, RIDE, Tom Sabbagh, CCRI, GWB Board Chair, Mike Grey noted he appreciated the invitation and the opportunity to attend
- 21 States applied, 10 states will be awarded
- Discussion occurred on how to renew efforts on growth by 2020
- The State of RI is committed to re-thinking the educational experiences of all its students and ensuring that educational fulfills its promise as the great equalizer it was meant to be.
- Heather noted the "The State's theory of change"
 - Establish a clear and compelling opportunity for business involvement

- Provide career education opportunities for all youth
 - Better align the career preparation system
 - Create a sustaining demand for career education among students, families, and educators
 - Then, all RI Students will be prepared for and succeed and career and RI employers will have the workforce needed to succeed in the current and future economy
- Mike Grey noted and highlighted Slide # 11 from the handout
 - Career Readiness state action plan major objectives
 - Establish clear and compelling opportunities for business involvement
 - Expand the employer –led, demand driven Real Jobs RI Island (RJRI) workforce development initiative to include K-12 in all partnerships
 - Reduce existing barriers to employers engagement and establish incentives for employers to more proactively engage with schools
 - With employer input, create scaled workforce programs between K-12 and Higher Education, with a particular focus on CCRI

Committee members asked:

- How much money are we planning on receiving through the NSFY?
Heather noted up to \$3 million dollars.
- George Nee stated Apprenticeship System is missing from the NFSY document. Heather noted she has been in touch with Andrew Cortes from Building Futures.

Real Jobs RI:

Chair Gregory asked Robert Kalaskowski, Grant Advisor, Real Jobs RI to provide an update on the Real Jobs RI Program. Rob referred everyone to the Real Jobs RI handout. Rob highlighted the Marine and composites partnership program.

- 795 Enrolled to date
- 452 Complete to date
- 254 Credential to date
- 179 Employed to date
- 234 Still in training
- 228 New hire trainees
- 199 Incumbent worker trainees
- 25 interns
- Cost per new trainees was \$2,909.24
- Cost per Incumbent trainee was \$3,883.38
- Total JDF / GWB was \$1,506,751.41
- Total allocated funding was \$2,219,515.90
- 11 New Initiatives, beyond original proposal were funded

- Rob noted that training is still ongoing.
- Federal WIA dollars have been used for new hires
- RI Marine Trades, new apprenticeship program, Charter Yacht apprenticeship program

Rob stated he would like to see us remodel and go to the next such as: Green energy, textiles. These are some additional industries to bring on board. Rob would like to see us focus on Veterans Affairs, NSFY for youth with RIDE. He noted having a lot of partnership make sense. Scott noted it's very important to connect with what Rob has stated such as.

Job Initiative:

Heather Hudson asked Rob to provide an update on the Job Initiative Program. Rob highlighted some Key points of the Job Initiative program are as follows:

- It was formally approved by the GWB Board at its, January 19, 2012 meeting
- The intended purpose is to support short term training, employment, and unemployed and underemployed youth and adults, with priority given to employment outcomes that can be accomplished within the current fiscal year
- Pay for training and hiring / retention incentives
- The goal is to keep adding jobs
- Rob had conversations with Commerce RI, helping to bring companies into RI, such as Tunstall.

Committee member Janet Raymond questioned whether we learn anything from Tunstall we could improve on. Director Jensen stated the Tunstall efforts works well. George Nee asked, how many people are employed at Tunstall. Rob noted over 200 are employed at Tunstall to date. George stated he would like to see us look at the Tax Credit rate and be able to bring that up.

Mike Grey agreed and noted the efforts were economic development, flexibility was important over a one year period. Chair Gregory noted the more tools we can give the better it is, making sure the people in RI are employed. Mike Grey also stated he was on board with flexibility, but he asked how do we integrate other GWB efforts and make sure we are meeting all our needs.

Tom Callahan, Deputy Commerce Secretary. Tom joined the Commerce RI Staff on June 1, 2016. Tom noted his main focus is to.

- Attract new businesses
- Bring companies into RI
- Qualified job Initiatives
- Workforce Development

Tom stated he has been making his rounds in the state. He has had conversations with DLT and GWB on collaboration with Commerce RI.

Allocation of Carry –Forward Funds for FY-17:

Chair Gregory asked for a vote of carry forward funds for FY17 of \$900,000. Chair Gregory asked if there was a motion to approve.

VOTE: Janet Raymond moved to approve, seconded by Mike Grey. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gregory noted \$2.74 Million current Allocation

- Total carry –over - \$2.1 million
- \$3.6 million – Real Jobs RI Allocation
- \$500,000 Re-establish Job Initiative
 - Reserve as part of a workforce incentive package for companies looking to move to RI, Funds would go forwards training and hiring Rhode Islanders
- \$900,000 Allocated to Real Jobs RI:
 - To continue support and sustainability of existing RJRL partnership and expand to Include additional industries / target populations
 - Support 26 partnerships high wage, high demand industry that increase skills for RI Islanders and meet employer and industry demand.
- \$700,000 Allocated for National Skills for Youth (NSFY) Career Readiness for Youth through existing RJRI partnerships to support industry / employer led career exploration, career expertise and career immersion.

Chair Gregory asked for a motion to rescind summary youth employment

Vote: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Robin Coia

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Gregory asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Scott Jensen moved to approve, seconded by Mario Bueno. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown